



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

P.O. Box 1049, 1800 WaterMark Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0149

00000108



Richard F. Celeste
Governor

May 9, 1990

Senator John Glenn
200 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Attn: Ms. Jan Denney

Dear Senator Glenn:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 5, 1990 which requests information regarding the Skinner Landfill Superfund site. I would like to address directly the concerns raised in Albert H. Neman's letter (Wood & Lamping) of February 5, 1990.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) discovered in 1976 that hazardous waste was being disposed of in a lagoon area of the Skinner landfill. In 1977, the State of Ohio initiated legal proceedings against the Skinners to attempt to force the owners to cease accepting hazardous wastes and to remove these wastes from their property. The Court of Common Pleas, Butler County entered a final judgement in January 1979 which enjoined the Skinners from using their property to dispose of hazardous waste. The order did not require the Skinners to remove such wastes from their property.

The Skinner Landfill site was proposed for placement on the USEPA National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1982. The site was finalized on the NPL in September, 1983. USEPA contractors began the Remedial Investigations at the site in September, 1984. Field work was repeatedly delayed and compromised by activities conducted by the Skinners at this site. A Phase II Remedial Investigation is currently ongoing at the site to fill data gaps and re-evaluate areas compromised by the Skinners.

A Feasibility Study has not been conducted at this time. A Feasibility Study will commence once the Remedial Investigation, which includes a risk assessment, has been completed. The USEPA currently has an agreement with Elsa Skinner, the owner of the site, that permits access and investigation activities at the site. The USEPA is prepared to enforce the order should problems arise.

The USEPA has tried to work with the Skinners in order to conduct RI/FS activities at this site. Because the Skinners have in the past refused to comply with access orders, USEPA has a second order in place that will assess penalties for each day of non-compliance.

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In regards to studies conducted at this site, the Ohio EPA reviewed and commented on the Phase I Remedial Investigation report prepared by USEPA. Ohio EPA feels that the report was incomplete and required numerous re-drafts before the Agency could concur with USEPA's approval of the report.

Both Agencies feel that additional data must be collected in order to adequately characterize the nature and extent of contamination at this site. However, neither Agency feels that conditions at this site present an immediate threat to human health or the environment and therefore an emergency action is not warranted. Residents living adjacent to the site are on public water supplied by West Chester. Therefore, to our knowledge there are no off-site private wells that are impacted by contaminated groundwater.

The Agencies do not deny that the Superfund process is a long, drawn-out procedure. The remedial investigations at this site have been further delayed by the activities of the site owners. However both USEPA and Ohio EPA have taken steps to expedite the final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Skinner Landfill site. Field activities are to be completed and a final RI report is to be submitted by USEPA contractors this summer. The scoping of the Feasibility Study is being undertaken at this time so that a full report can be initiated once final RI data and the risk assessment is complete.

I urge you to contact directly the USEPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for further clarification and response to your concerns at this site. The RPM at this site is Mr. Fred Bartman and his number is (312) 353-6083. Please feel free to contact myself or the Ohio EPA Project Coordinator for this site, Ms. Bonnie Bowker (513) 285-6357 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Shank, Ph.D.
Director, Ohio EPA

cc: Jennifer Tiell, Chief - DERR
Bonnie Bowker - SWDO, DERR
Maureen McGuinness, Director Office

~~For Distribution to the Ohio EPA Regional Office~~